

Message Text

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60

ORIGIN SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-06 NEA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 DEAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIE-00 CIAE-00 INR-05

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SY-04 TRSE-00 OES-03 OMB-01

AID-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /084 R

DRAFTED BY S/NM:DEMILLER:BB

APPROVED BY S/NM:DHERNST

DEA:WDURKIN (DRAFT)

IO/HDC:LCAVANAUGH (DRAFT)

SAODAP:RBUCHER (SUBS)

OMB:RHARKNESS (SUBS)

P:ARAPHEL (DRAFT)

S/S- MR. MOFFAT

----- 128340

O R 160048Z NOV 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMCONSUL CURACAO

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

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AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
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NEW DELHI ALSO PASS AMB. VANCE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJECT: USG POLICY ON MARIJUANA

1. THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE ENTITLED "POT USERS GAINING HIGH-LEVEL SUPPORT" BY MICHAEL PUTZEL, IS QUOTED FROM THE WASHINGTON STAR-NEWS, DATED NOVEMBER 15, 1974:

BEGIN TEXT: THE TOP WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL ON DRUG POLICY IS ABOUT TO ANNOUNCE OPPOSITION TO CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR MARIJUANA USE, ACCORDING TO INFORMED ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS.

THE SOURCES SAID THE OFFICIAL, DR. ROBERT L. DUPONT, WILL ANNOUNCE HIS POSITION TONIGHT IN A SPEECH TO THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR REFORM OF MARIJUANA LAWS.

DUPONT IS DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DRUG ABUSE AND HEADS THE WHITE HOUSE SPECIAL ACTION OFFICE FOR DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION.

OFFICIALS SAID DUPONT WILL MAKE A "CAREFULLY BALANCED STATEMENT" THAT CALLS ATTENTION TO NEW MEDICAL EVIDENCE THAT INDICATES MARIJUANA SMOKING CAN BE DANGEROUS. BUT THEY SAID HE WOULD ARGUE THAT "PEOPLE SHOULDN'T BE PUT THROUGH THE CRIMINAL PROCESS FOR POSSESSION" OF SMALL QUANTITIES OF THE DRUG.

DUPONT'S POSITION IS REPORTED TO BE SIMILAR TO A UNIQUE OREGON LAW. MARIJUANA SMOKERS THERE ARE SUBJECT TO CIVIL FINES OF UP TO \$100 FOR POSSESSION OF LESS THAN ONE OUNCE OF MARIJUANA BUT CANNOT BE SENTENCED TO JAIL TERMS EVEN FOR REPEATED OFFENSES.

SOURCES SAID DUPONT CONTINUES TO ADVOCATE PUBLIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROGRAMS THAT DISCOURAGE USE OF MARIJUANA, BUT THEY CHARACTERIZED HIS SPEECH AS "THE BEGINNING OF A PROCESS" INTENDED TO DIVORCE THE FORD ADMINISTRATION FROM FORMER RICHARD NIXON'S STIFF OPPOSITION TO CHANGING MARIJUANA LAWS.

IN ONE STATEMENT ON THE ISSUE BEFORE BECOMING PRESIDENT, FORD SAID: "I AM NOT YET CONVINCED WE OUGHT TO LEGALIZE MARIJUANA. (HOWEVER, MY CHILDREN) KEEP TELLING ME THAT MARIJUANA IS NO WORSE THAN DRINKING A MARTINI OR A SCOTCH AND SODA."

ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS SAID THAT BY LETTING DUPONT GO PUBLIC ON THE ISSUE, FORD HOPES TO CONTINUE HIS POLICY OF RECONCILIATION IN THE BELIEF THAT "MORE PEOPLE

ARE HURT BY CRIMINAL LAWS AGAINST MARIJUANA USE THAN
ARE HURT BY THE DRUG ITSELF."

THE FIRST PUBLIC INDICATION THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WAS
PREPARING TO SHIFT ITS POLICY TOWARD MARIJUANA CAME IN
REMARKS EARLIER THIS WEEK BY ATTORNEY GENERAL WILLIAM
B. SAXBE.

AT A NEWS CONFERENCE IN MIAMI, SAXBE SAID HE WOULD
"WELCOME A CHANGE IN THE MARIJUANA LAWS BUT NOT FOR HARD
DRUGS. IF THE STATE LEGISLATURES AND THE CONGRESS SEE
FIT, I'M NOT GOING TO FIGHT IT."

FOLLOWING ;IS OPENING SPEECH ON THE ISSUE, DUPONT,
A MEDICAL DOCTOR, IS EXPECTED TO DEFEND HIS POSITION
AT A NEWS CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY AND IN
TESTIMONY TUESDAY BEFORE A SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON DRUGS.

THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON MARIJUANA AND DRUG ABUSE,
MOST OF WHOSE MEMBERS WERE NIXON APPOINTEES, RECOM-
MENDED IN 1972 THAT ALL JAIL TERMS AND FINES FOR PRIVATE
MARIJUANA SMOKING BE ABOLISHED. THE PANEL URGED THAT
THOSE PENALTIES BE RETAINED FOR MARIJUANA CULTIVATION
OR SALE.

NIXON REJECTED THE RECOMMENDATIONS. END TEXT.
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2. SIMILAR STORIES WERE CARRIED BY WASHINGTON POST,
BALTIMORE SUN, AND ASSOCIATED PRESS.

3. PRESS REPORTS ARE MISLEADING. FOLLOWING Q AND A
PREPARED FOR SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY FOR USE
IN THE EVENT ISSUE RAISED AS RESULT PRESS ITEMS:

"Q: PRESS REPORTS TODAY INDICATE THAT DR. DUPONT, HEAD
OF THE SPECIAL ACTION OFFICE FOR DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION,
IS GOING TO ANNOUNCE A CHANGE IN ADMINISTRATION POLICY
WITH REGARD TO MARIJUANA; NAMELY, THAT HE WILL RECOMMEND
DECRIMINALIZING THE POSSESSION AND USE OF SMALL AMOUNTS.
AS CHAIRMANF THE CABINET COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL
NARCOTICS CONTROL, WHAT EFFECT DO YOU THINK, MR.
SECRETARY, THIS WOULD HAVE ON OUR INTERNATIONAL
COMMITMENTS AND OUR INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL
PROGRAMS.

"A: I CANNOT COMMENT ON PRESS REPORTS CONCERNING WHAT
DR. DUPONT MAY SAY IN A SPEECH THAT HE HAS NOT YET GIVEN.
HOWEVER, THE INTERDICTION OF MARIJUANA COMING INTO THIS

COUNTRY IS OF HIGH PRIORITY. WE HAVE INTERNATIONAL TREATY OBLIGATIONS AND PROGRAMS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES ONE OBJECTIVE OF WHICH IS TO CURTAIL THE SUPPLY AND USE OF MARIJUANA IN THIS COUNTRY. THERE HAS BEEN NO CABINET COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF A CHANGE IN US LAW REGARDING MARIJUANA AND NO CHANGE IS PLANNED."

4. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION RAISED AT THE NOVEMBER 15 NOON PRESS BRIEFING, WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN RON NESSEN INDICATED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY WITH REGARD TO MARIJUANA REMAINS UNCHANGED.

5. ABOVE IS FURNISHED FOR YOUR USE IN RESPONDING TO ANY INQUIRIES THAT MAY ARISE AS RESULT PRESS STORIES.
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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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To: KINGSTON MEXICO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005